



July 1, 2003

Public Information Meetings for Xcel Energy Transmission Line Projects

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a series of transmission improvements we're planning for the region and invite you to an informational open house about these projects.

Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy, is planning to build new transmission lines in Southwestern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota to support the development of the area's wind energy projects. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission recently authorized Xcel Energy to build and upgrade a series of transmission lines in this area. In addition to supporting the growth of wind generation in the area, the improvements will strengthen the transmission system, and provide more reliable electrical service to local communities and rural cooperative customers.

The proposed transmission projects include a new 345-kilovolt line connecting Lakefield Junction Substation in Minnesota with Split Rock Substation near Sioux Falls, S.D. and a new 115-kilovolt line in Nobles and Murray counties that will be tied into the 345 kV line at a new substation near Reading, MN and will connect to the existing Chanarambie Substation near Lake Wilson MN.

The locations of the transmission lines and substations have not been determined. We plan to file a route permit application this summer with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB). The MEQB will select the final route. As part of the MEQB application, we are required to file at least two route alternatives for the proposed transmission line.

Before we file our application, we'd like to get input from property owners and area residents on possible routes. You have been identified as a landowner that may be impacted by the project or a government official we wanted to notify about the project. We've included a project summary sheet and maps with this letter to provide you some background on the project. We also invite you to attend one of our informational open houses, so we can answer your questions. The enclosed newspaper notice highlights meeting dates, times and locations. At our open house meetings, we'll have maps with preliminary routes and information on structure types, right-of-way, the permitting process and other issues of interest.

If you cannot attend the meeting and would like more information regarding these projects, please contact me at the number shown below and we will send you information and respond to questions you may have.

Pam Rasmussen
Permitting Analyst
Xcel Energy, Siting & Land Rights Department
715-839-4661 or 1-800-238-7968 ext. 4661
pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com

**XCEL ENERGY IS PLANNING TO
BUILD NEW TRANSMISSION LINES
IN THE REGION TO HELP SUPPORT
THE GROWING WIND POWER
INDUSTRY AND TO STRENGTHEN
SERVICE RELIABILITY IN THE
SIOUX FALLS AREA.**

Please join us for an informational open house on the routing process. All open houses are scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 9
Rock County Community Library
201 W. Main St.
Luverne, Minn.

Thursday, July 10
Brandon Chamber of Commerce
109 Pipestone
Brandon, S.D.

Wednesday, July 16
Lake Wilson American Legion
137 Broadway Ave.
Lake Wilson, Minn.

Thursday, July 17
Worthington Elks Lodge
1105 2nd Ave.
Worthington, Minn.

Choose a date or location that's convenient for you.

In addition to helping the growth of wind generation in the area, the improvements will strengthen the transmission system and provide more reliable electrical service to local communities.

The proposed transmission projects include:

- A new 345-kilovolt line connecting Lakefield Junction Substation in Minnesota with Split Rock Substation near Sioux Falls, S.D.
- A new 115-kilovolt line in Nobles and Murray counties that will be tied into the 345 kV line at a new substation and will connect to the existing Chanarambie Substation near Buffalo Ridge

The specific location of each transmission line has not been determined. We plan to file permit applications later this year with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.

Before we file our application, we'd like to get input from property owners and area residents on possible routes. At our open houses, we'll have maps with preliminary routes and information on structure types, right-of-way, construction practices, the permitting process and other issues of interest. You can attend a meeting at any time to review exhibits and talk to us about the project.

Please join us! Refreshments will be provided.



**SPLIT ROCK TO LAKEFIELD JUNCTION 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
CHANARAMBIE TO NOBLES COUNTY 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
NOBLES COUNTY SUBSTATION
PROJECT FACT SHEET**

Xcel Energy is proposing to build a set of projects in eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota that include:

- a new 345-kilovolt line connecting Lakefield Junction Substation in Minnesota with Split Rock Substation near Sioux Falls, S.D.;
- a new “Nobles County” substation located near Reading, MN; and
- a new 115-kilovolt line connecting the new Nobles County substation to the existing Chanarambie Substation near Lake Wilson MN.

Project Need

These projects are needed to help support the development of wind energy in SW Minnesota and SESouth Dakota. The existing electric transmission system is incapable of supporting additional wind generation development in this area. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission granted a Certificate of Need for several transmission line projects on March 11, 2003. These facilities are part of a series of electric transmission line projects Xcel Energy will be building in southwestern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota to support wind power development.

Project Approvals

Xcel Energy must obtain permits from various government regulatory agencies before these projects can be built. Xcel Energy will soon file applications with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for a Route Permit and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) for a Facilities Permit. In those applications we will include transmission line route proposals for the agencies to review along with the necessary environmental and land use information. The SD PUC and the MEQB will determine what route the lines will follow and the types of structures to be used. These processes are open to the public with several opportunities for comment, including scoping meetings and public hearings.

Project Components:

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line: This includes the construction of a new 90-mile 345 kV transmission line from the Split Rock Substation near Sioux Falls, SD and the Lakefield Junction Substation near Lakefield, MN. Preliminary routes for the transmission line have been identified at this time that follow major corridors in the area, one paralleling an existing 161 kV transmission line and the other paralleling Interstate 90.

The right-of-way for the line will be 150 feet wide. It will be narrower if the line route parallels existing transmission lines or roads. Several structure types will be considered including single pole and double pole construction. Some work will be required in the Split Rock and Lakefield Junction Substations.

Nobles County Substation: A new 345 kV substation will be constructed near Reading, Minnesota. We have identified general areas where the substation would be located, but have not selected any specific site at this time. We will have more information on the details of this substation at the open houses.

Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line: This project includes the construction of a new 30-mile 115 kV transmission line from the new Nobles County Substation to the existing Chanarambie Substation near Lake Wilson, MN. Preliminary routes have been identified at this time that follow roads.

The right-of-way for the line will be 75 feet wide, but can be narrower if the line route parallels existing transmission lines or roads. Proposed structure types will include single pole construction similar to other 115 kV transmission lines we have been building in the area. Some work will be required in the Chanarambie Substation.

Public Input

Xcel Energy welcomes your comments. The open houses are designed to introduce the projects to the public and to gather input on your thoughts regarding the proposed project routes and design. There will be additional meetings and opportunities for your input as these projects move forward in the regulatory review process.

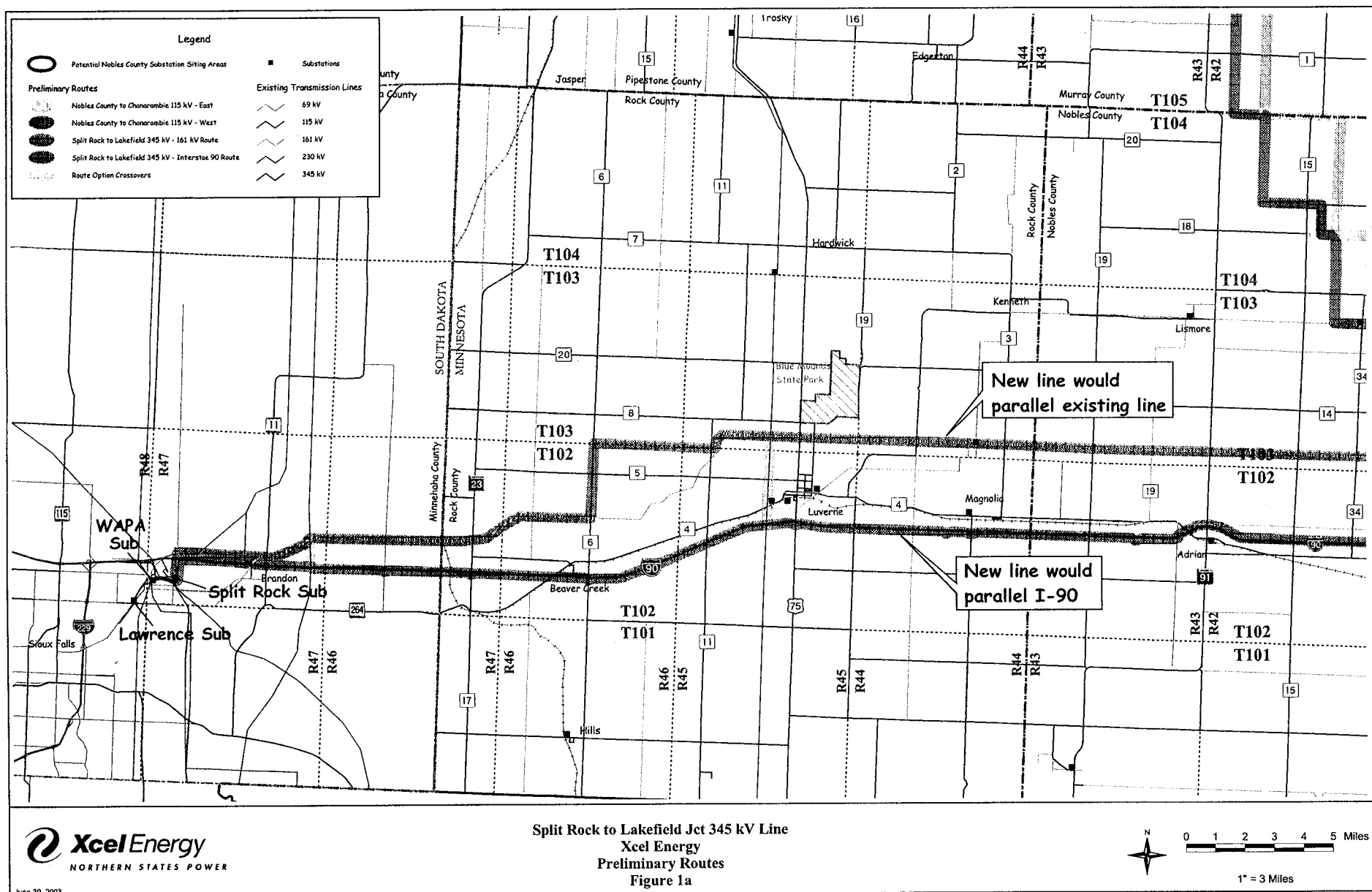
Schedule

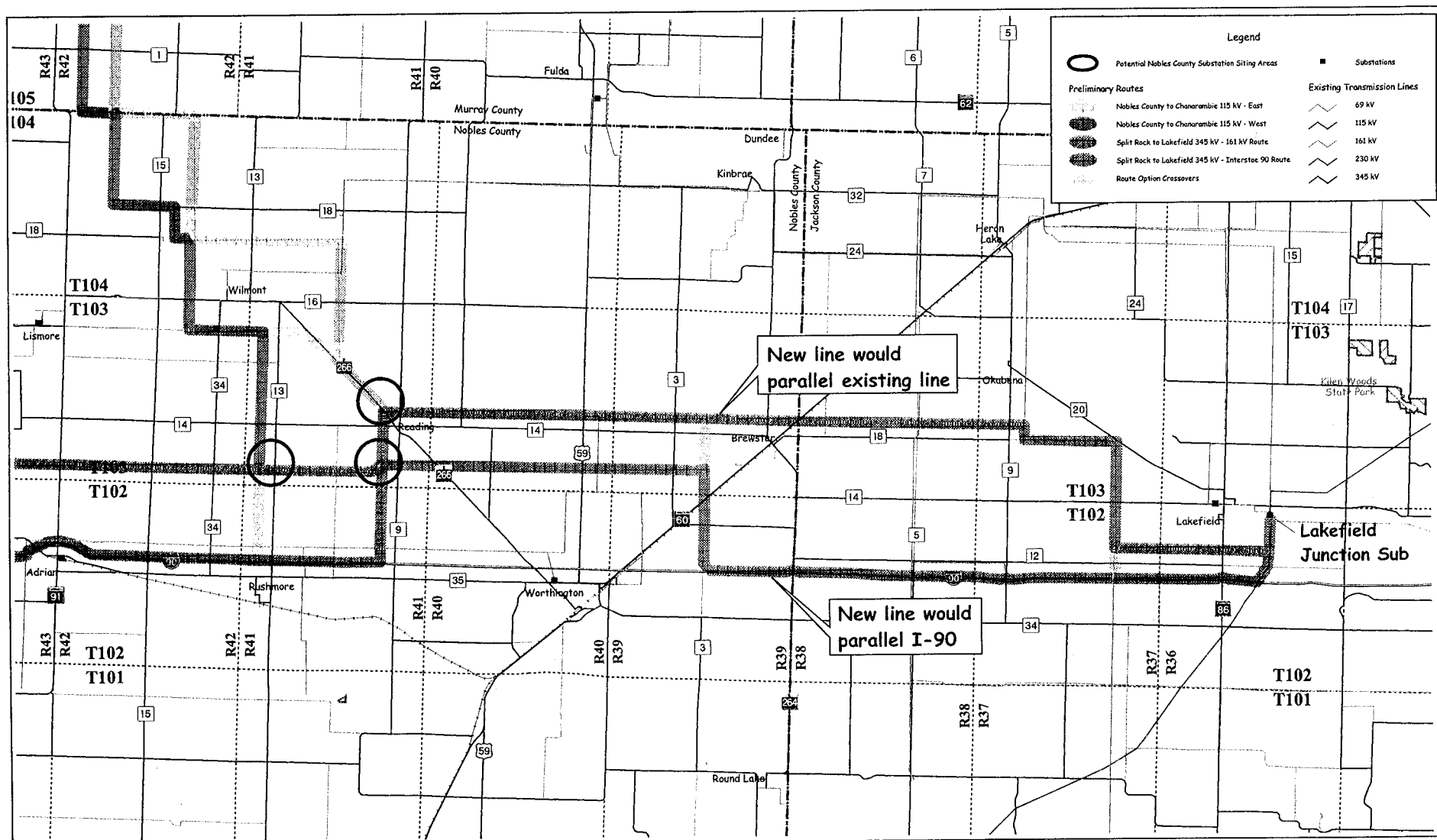
Xcel Energy plans to file its application with the SD PUC and MEQB later this year. Once an application is filed, each agency will develop a schedule for the regulatory review process. The review process will last at least one year. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin 2005, pending state approvals and construction is scheduled for 2006.

Contact Information:

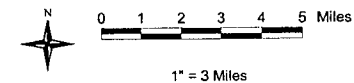
For more information on these projects, please contact Pam Rasmussen in the Siting & Land Rights department at Xcel Energy. She can be reached at 1-800-238-7968 extension 4661 or pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com. If she is unavailable, please leave a message or contact Ron Flynn at extension 2433. You can also visit Xcel Energy's web site for more information on the project. Go to www.xcelenergy.com, click on Home, About Us, Transmission Projects.

Formed by the merger of Denver-based New Century Energies and Minneapolis-based Northern States Power Co., Xcel Energy is the fourth-largest combination electricity and natural gas energy company in the United States. We offer a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.2 million electricity customers and 1.7 million natural gas customers. We have regulated operations in 12 Western and Midwestern states and revenue of \$9.5 billion annually; own over 240,000 conductor miles of electricity transmission and distribution lines, and more than 32,700 miles of natural gas pipelines; and operate regulated power plants that generate about 15,246 megawatts of electric power.

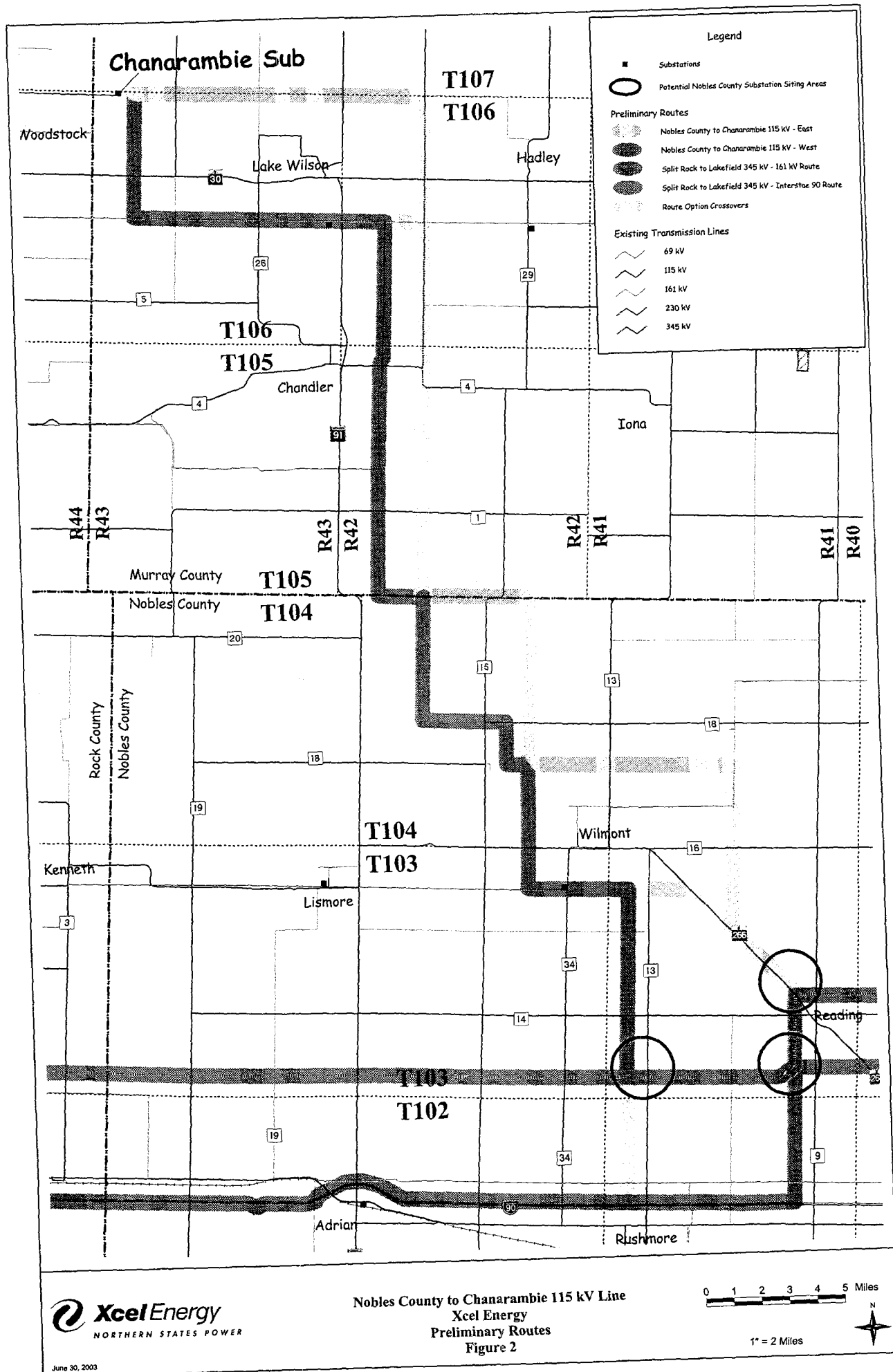




Split Rock to Lakefield Jct 345 kV Line
Xcel Energy
Preliminary Routes
Figure 1b



June 30, 2003



Name	Date Received	Comments	Notes
Leon & Dolores Sieve	6-25-03	<p>Larkin Township R42W Section 3</p> <p>After reviewing the information we received from Xcel Energy about the proposed transmission line, we have no objection to the route past our property along Ereckon Ave. In fact the highest spot in Nobles County is located in section 3 of Larkin township. This appears to be an acceptable route also because there are very few homes &/or farm places on the E side of Erickson Ave in both Wilmont & Larkin townships.</p> <p>Please keep us informed of the progress of this development.</p>	Comment Form
Matus Farms	7-18-03	<p>Beaver Creek 102-46-Sec 18 & 19</p> <p>It would make more sense to continue a single style pole along the interstate highway. This would be less intrusive to the farmland. I am already farming along 1 set of poles and would strongly prefer not to have to farm around a 2nd set. I believe that a single pole would be better than a double.</p>	
Robert & Charlene Kirchner	7-23-03	Lengthy comments were provided. Copy of letter included at end of document.	Comment Form
Bruce & Gail Kingery	7-24-03	<p>Southeast 80, Section 14, Summit Lake Township</p> <p>Our concern regarding this project is the placement of the substation. We would end up losing half of our acreage if the station were to be placed on our land. We have no desire to lose our land or live next to a substation with our main concern of the electromagnetic fields and our land evaluation.</p>	Comment Form
George & Susan Lass	7-28-03	<p>Rock County Mound Twp Section 35</p> <p>We are operating a large commercial gravel pit south of the existing line and plan to take gravel out below the water line in future years. This line may interfere with these plans if the new line runs south of the existing line. We vote for the I-90 option.</p>	Comment Form
Maurice & Elaine Erlandson	7-24-03	<p>Olney Twp 102 Range 42 Section 11 & 14</p> <p>We now have a set of poles standing on our property from another line & are not interested in having more poles for Xcel Energy's route. Please consider this!</p>	Comment Form
Audrey Reisdnfer	7-28-03	<p>I live ½ mile west of the Catholic church in Adrian on the south side of the road.</p> <p>I am very interested in having turbines on my property. We live on top of a hill & there is large amount of wind 7 days a week. (Provides 3 phone numbers.)</p>	Comment Form

Name	Date Received	Comments	Notes
Curt & Wanda Miersma	7-31-03	<p>W1/2 of NW1/4 Section 5, Chanarambie Township, Murray County. W1/2 of Section 32 Cameron Township, Murray County</p> <p>We do not want any more power lines past our property. We are concerned that our windbreak/grove will be disturbed because it goes right up to the township right of way and we will not allow any trees to be removed. We have a hog confinement barn and are concerned that the power lines will be too close and the effect of electric and magnetic fields on livestock and humans. There are already power lines that come from four directions on the intersection of 10th Avenue and 121st Street. We suggest that the power lines be built on the half mile line in Section 6 in Chanarambie Township, in a north/south direction. There are already access roads thru that section and the power line would then go right into the Chanarambie Substation from the south thus avoiding all existing power lines.</p>	Comment Form
Todd L Platt	7-31-03	<p>Leeds Section 20 Lake Wilson</p> <p>This is a response to putting your line in my area. I am not interested in having them near my property. I feel that they are an eye sore and feel they would be better placed somewhere else. I moved to the country to get away from man made things because I really enjoy nature. I would support the Nobles County to Chanarambie 115kv-west. This route is a mile west of me and it has a good road to travel on but is less populated so not as many people would have to look at those ugly lines. Please do not put these things on this road.</p>	Comment Form
Harley H Christiansen	7-12-03	<p>Sw1/4 Section 18 T102N R46W</p> <p>As the need for increased power, I have no objections on the building the power line. Hopefully with the lease amount inconvenience to my farm.</p>	Comment Form
Abram Bud Ackerman	7/25/03	<p>Sec 24W Beaver Creek Twp</p> <p>I have no objections to putting a new line in my pasture. The line that is there now does not interfere with anything here so a new line is OK with me.</p>	Comment Form
John & Leona Talsma	8/5/03	<p>The concern John & I have are how far are these poles going to come into the farm land? John does not want to farm around them or have to give up any more land for public use. If farm land is going to be taken away is there compensation?</p>	Comment Form
Elmer Brake	8/12/03	<p>South 1/2 of Section 34, Fenton Twp, Murray County.</p> <p>Being our house is 95' from the center of the road, we prefer not to have this line past our farm. In the next mile going east there is also two farm sites that close. We feel that the transmission lines should be by the people that have the wind towers, they are the ones that benefit from the towers. No one has ever contacted us about a tower on our farm, so it would be of no benefit to us.</p>	Comment Form

Name	Date Received	Comments	Notes
Gerald DeKruif	8/12/03	Leeds T106N R42W Sec 29 NW1/4 We have a 69 kv line past my farm already. If you plan on a 115kv line on our property I would like part of the income from the wind towers. I would like more information on the type of poles that are going to be used.	Comment Form
Stanley M Elsing	8/13/03	Summit Lake 31 Nobles County, Olney Township, Section 1 I am interested in wind energy. The Rushmore substation would be my benefit the existing line is on my property at this time.	Comment Form
Catherine A Bieraugel	8/25/03	Thank you for your prompt response to my questions & for all the information – it is very interesting! In today's unstable world I feel anything we can do to reduce our dependence on foreign fuel sources & preserve our environment should be pursued! Wind power seems to meet those needs!	Comment Form
Clyde and Barb Smith	9/3/03	Concerns regarding this project are as follows: We will not grant an easement through our property for the following reasons: The transmission line will limit access to our fields, create a hazard when operating machinery near the line, be hard to control weeds near the poles, will devalue the value of our land and create a hazard to our health, safety and well being.	Letter
Ron Einck	9/3/03	Fenton Township Section 35 Murray County I strongly object to power lines being put up adjacent to my farm. I think you should try to keep them along the ridge where the windmills are and the people are benefiting from having the windmills. There is pasture ground two miles west of me where they would not interfere with anything. I live on the county line where there are three acreages close to the road and that would put the power lines too close. A few years ago, we had our lines buried which made the view a lot better. I don't really want lines put back up. I think you should consider a different route where no one would be affected.	Comment Form
Jim Kluis	9/12/03	Murray County, Fenton Township 105N, 42W, Section 32 & Section 31. We are writing regarding the proposed transmission line. We have an established grove on section 31 that would be affected. We would like to talk to a representative about this. We are also enclosing pictures.	Comment Form
Gordon Groen	9/15/03	Chandler, Murray County, Fenton Twp., Sec 16, NW1/4 My concerns are: Proximity to house & child playhouse. Trees – ash trees, spaced approx every six feet approx 21 ft from center of road, and next row 31 ft from center of road. Cottonwood trees 70 ft tall. The only wind protection from the west. I believe constructing the power line past this property will maximize adverse human life. Question – will I be able to call Xcel Energy after a snowstorm for snow removal?	Comment Form

Name	Date Received	Comments	Notes
William J. Jones	7/3/03	<p>I have received your notice concerning the transmission projects in southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota, no doubt because I won a quarter-section of property just north of Split Rock Creek on Hwy 11 north of Corson, SD. Since I live in Chevy Chase, MD, it won't be convenient for me to attend your Brandon open house, so I am writing you instead.</p> <p>First, I'd like to correct my mailing address. You have addressed your mailing to me thus:</p> <p><i>Address omitted</i></p> <p>Second, I'd appreciate it if you could confirm my impression that both of your proposed alternative routings for the Split Rock to Lakefield 345 kV line are slated to cross Hwy 11 a mile or so south of my quarter section, which is bounded on the east by Hwy 11, and on the south by 259th St. That would necessarily be the case for a line which was closely parallel to the I-90, and I gather from the map on your website that it is likely the case with respect to the route paralleling your existing 116 kV line, which seems to run closer to Corson, perhaps just north or south of 260th St.</p>	Email
Gene Sieve	7/8/03	<p>Message: Please contact me regarding the routing of the 115Kva line through Nobles County. My parents own the 1.5Mw tower near Wilmont. My siblings and I are evaluating the feasibility of an additional 6Mw of generation on the same site.</p>	Email
Mike Harberts	Contacted 7/24/03	<p>Landowner that did not attend meeting. Are we interested in his property? Summitt Lake Township, line is on sections 23 and 24. Interested in talking about the substation property.</p>	
Dave Hendel	Contacted 8/6/03	<p>Summit Lake Township Section 19. Near substation site. Has wind easement on that section. Just wind rights (assumes) – 5 years and 2 year renewal.</p>	
Milton Fricke	12/5/03	<p>Questions about the reroute. Will talk on 12/15/03 in Jackson.</p>	Phone Call
Jim Milbrath	Contacted 12/8/03	<p>Concerned about routing and wants to talk.</p>	
Timothy Schafer	7/24/03	<p>Extensive comments provided. Please see attached comment form.</p>	
Keith Place	8/7/03	<p>I just wanted Xcel Energy to know how deeply disappointed I am with the proposed transmission line project slated for Southwest Minnesota. As a present landowner who may be impacted, I believe there is a much better option than going down the middle of all the farms impacted. We presently have a power line down the fence line and asking to now put one side by side in the field is too much to ask. I have no problem going down the road ditch or fence line, but please not in the field.</p>	Email
Amy Creed	4/28/04	<p>Amy called. Amy and her husband are looking at building a house on her parent's land just north of the existing Alliant Energy 161 kV line on Jones Avenue. This is in the area for substation site C. She wants to know if they can move forward. Discussed proposal with Amy and informed her that we wanted to find a willing seller for the substation and would not be interested in a site that would require us to displace a home. Also informed her that route in that area would replace H-frame with single double circuit line.</p>	

**SPLIT ROCK TO LAKEFIELD JUNCTION 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
NOBLES COUNTY SUBSTATION
NOBLES COUNTY TO CHANARAMBIE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
COMMENT FORM**

FROM:

Name	Robert & Charlene Kirchner
Address	
Representing	self employed farmer

phone (507) 842-5592

Please note your property location. (Town, Range, section number are fine. You may also use the number printed above your name on the mailing label from Xcel Energy if you have it).

Please refer to enclosed page 2.

My concerns regarding this project are:

Please refer to enclosed page 2

Please return your comments to Pam Rasmussen, Xcel Energy, (see address on back) or email them to pamela.jo.Rasmussen@xcelenergy.com.

received
RR 1-23-03

Xcel Energy
Northern States Power
Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115kV Transmission Line
Comment Form

From: Robert A. Kirchner

Robert Kirchner

Property Location Owned/farmed: Hersey Township, Section 23, SE quarter
Hersey Township, Section 22, W ½ of NW quarter
Property Locations rented/farmed: Hersey Township, Section 22, E ½ of the NW quarter
and the SW Section of Section 22

My concerns regarding this project are:

- 1) The existing 161 kV power line passing through two of my properties was established by easement to Interstate Power Company in the fall of 1953. The owner of the 80 acre parcel in section 22 was paid a one time payment of \$40.00 per pole. At that time the easement payment was only for this 161 kV line and there were no express or implied rights given to Interstate or any other entity for the creation of any utility corridor for future additions.
- 2) On my 160 acre home farm in Section 23 of Hersey township I do have a utility corridor that was established before the 161 kV line was established. This utility corridor is on the south side of the farm in the form of Nobles County highway 14. It has 4 buried telephone cables on the north side of the highway with accompanying junction boxes and marking signs. Located on the south side of the highway are the overhead Rural Electric Association power lines which supplies electricity to our farm and to our neighbors. How many utility corridors would you like on your property? My position is that the original utility corridor of Nobles County highway 14 is the only legal utility corridor established on my properties.
- 3) Xcel Energy is an investor owned utility operating for a profit. Investor owned utilities should not be allowed the process of eminent domain when existing established public utility corridors are available.
- 4) At what price would you be willing to give me a permanent easement for a utility pole on your property at my choice of location? My choice of location is the side opposite to where you already have a utility corridor and not on the property line.
- 5) With an existing public utility corridor on Nobles County highway 14 and a 161 kV power line on the opposite side of my farm, I feel that I have made my fair contribution to the public good and would like to preserve the balance of my farm for future farming.

LAKEFIELD TO FOX LAKE 161 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT
COMMENT FORM

FROM:

July 24-2003

Name	Timothy Schafer
Address	
Representing	Ruby Schafer ETAL Life Estate

My concerns regarding this project are:

I - Tim Schafer - Representing my mother and 6 other brothers + sisters as owners of - Section 3 Jay Township Martin County - the NW 1/4 where your existing line goes through on the south property line - wish to make these comments:

1) The existing line was put in with a 2 pole and cross arm structure - 1 pole on each side of ~~the~~ property line. We believe that all land owners along the existing line would be more than glad if the existing wires and additional wires were put on 1 metal pole on the center of the property line which would eliminate poles in the way of planting crops and harvesting.

2) The existing poles are old and will have to be replaced some time any way. The 1 metal pole system would not require additional right of way and would make all the farmers very happy.

3) To put a new line parallel I-90 would be both unsightly for travelers and also more vulnerable to injury by vehicles or even terrorist.

Thanks for allowing us to comment on this project.

Tim Schafer

Please return your comments to Pam Rasmussen, Xcel Energy, (see address on back) or email them to pamela.jo.Rasmussen@xcelenergy.com.

P.S. Sorry this is so late. Thanks for your meeting at Jackson this spring.